(b) The track from Baltal is maintained by the State Government and normal upkeep of the track is undertaken by them on a regular basis every year.

(c) and (d) Development and management of pilgrim centres is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India provides central financial assistance to State Governments and funds are released keeping in view the inter-se-priority of projects, subject to availability of funds, on the basis of the projects submitted by them.

Tourism Infrastructure in Punjab

2779 SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SARDAR GURCHARNA SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals from the Punjab Government relating to construction of Tourism infrastructure and other facilities in connection with celebrations of Tricentenary of birth of Khalsa at Anandpur Sahib; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Ministry of Tourism have received the following project proposals from Punjab Government in connection with celebrations of Tricentenary of birth of Khalsa at Anandpur Sahib:—

1. SEL Show at Gurudwara Anandpur Sahib.
2. Illumination at Gurudwara Teg Bahadur, Anandpur Sahib.
3. Illumination at Gurudwara Mai Jito Ji, Anandpur Sahib.
4. Illumination at Gurudwara Kila Anandgarh Sahib.
5. Illumination at Gurudwara Kesh Garh Sahib, Anandpur Sahib.
6. Tourist Reception Centre at Anandpur Sahib.

Sanctions of these projects have been issued and first instalment has also been released to the State Government.

Importance of Domestic Tourism

2780 SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the domestic tourism has not been given the importance and attention it deserves;

(b) if so, the steps taken to develop the infrastructure for the promotion of domestic tourism; and

(c) the details of the scheme prepared for the purpose for Ninth Plan State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Promotion of domestic tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has been providing financial assistance to the State Governments for the creation of facilities for domestic tourism such as construction of tourist complexes, way-side amenities and cafeterias; purchase of adventure sports equipments; flood-lighting and refurbishment and landscaping of monuments and heritage properties, setting up Sound & Light shows, construction of yatriniwas, yatrikas; promotion of handicrafts and folk culture, craft melas, important festivals and fairs. Publicity brochures on various tourist destinations have been brought out for the information of tourists. These schemes are included in the Ninth Plan budget of the Ministry.

Weaning Away of Tourists from South East Asian Countries

2781 SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state: